

Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
February 18, 2020

Present: Julie Sherman, Pene Williams, Susan Spak, Roxana Mocanu, Rita Kornblum, Ted Busky, Shelby Fuerst, Johanna del Prado (guest), Maggie Bogacz (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Chairperson Sherman.

The January 21, 2020 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Kornblum/Mocanu.

Johanna del Prado and Maggie Bogacz, from the newly formed UConn chapter of Surfrider Foundation, joined the meeting to discuss a joint town/university Ocean Friendly Restaurant (OFR) campaign. Members were interested in collaborating with the UConn chapter. An initial letter of support from the Town could be sent to restaurants. Del Prado and Bogacz offered to make follow up visits to restaurants on and off campus to enlist OFR participation. To garner interest, it was suggested that they identify the benefits of OFR recognition that are meaningful to restaurants. The annual cost may be a barrier. There was discussion about whether the town could offer grants to restaurants wishing to join. There was enthusiasm for a litter clean along the Willimantic River, Eagleville Brook or the wetlands between the post office and daycare in Storrs downtown as a kick-off to the campaign. Busky and Walton volunteered to help with a cleanup event. When the UConn chapter meets for the first time, Bogacz and del Prado will report the Committee's interest, and report back to Walton. Walton will bring a list of the restaurants to the next meeting in order to help determine a goal for the campaign.

Members reviewed proposed trash rates prepared by Walton. The new rates are for 6 and 8 cubic yard compacting dumpsters that are emptied one or more times per week. On a motion by Sherman/Fuerst, the rates were accepted. The proposal will move to the Town Council, acting as the Mansfield Resource Recovery Authority, for their review and acceptance.

In order to accomplish more during the regular meetings, it was suggested forming subcommittees to delve into a couple different projects. Swap shop subcommittee -Williams and Busky volunteered to work on waste prevention possibilities for a new swap shop. Food waste subcommittee - Fuerst and Kornblum offered to work on food waste prevention and composting. In addition, Sherman offered to work with Walton on a sustainable purchasing policy. Walton will arrange meeting times.

The Committee continued its discussion about curbside textile collection. On a motion by Sherman/Busky, Walton will contact the company Simple Recycling about piloting textile collection at the multi-family residences and placing BayState Textile boxes on more municipal properties. Baystate Textiles pays the town for the clothing they receive. If Simple Recycling is not willing to pilot textile collection at multi-family residences, then Walton was directed to move forward with a 3 year contract to collect at single-family residences. Walton informed the committee that based on a web search, Salvation Army, Hartsprings and WAIM will also pick up textiles upon appointment.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2020. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton